

RECEIVED BY BPA
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
LOG# R0-0300
RECEIVED DATE: SEP 09 2002

Dear Mr. Wright,

I know you have a very difficult decision in front of you as far as the allocation of power past October 2006. The decision will probably be one of the hardest you will ever have to make.

My writing to you today is totally selfish. I am an aluminum worker. My Company, Alcoa, Inc. has told me that without some hydroelectric power in our mix after October of 2006 that they cannot be competitive on the world market and would be forced to shut down our plant. As you are very well aware of, power is one of the main costs in our process, and could very well be the difference in our running or not.

You have probably also heard all of the comments about how about one out of every twenty-four jobs in Whatcom County are either directly or indirectly tied to Alcoa Intalco Works. Today, I'm just talking about mine. If I am put out of work, there are really no family wage jobs up here to turn to. I have spoken with many of our Union brothers and sisters that took the severance package last October and many of them are still looking for good paying jobs. Our local economy was already hit hard last year by the closing of the pulp mill at Georgia Pacific. I have worked at Intalco for over 28 years and although there have been things over the years that have frustrated me a time or two, it has been a very good place to work. My entire family is here and I really don't want to relocate. I did enough of that as a military kid. I'm very happy in this community.

Alcoa has presented a proposal at the public hearings and I would ask you to take a good hard look at that proposal and judge it on its merits. It lessens the risks for BPA and it was upfront in the fact that it told everyone right from the get go that it would raise peoples rate by a buck or so. We are looking to keep our jobs here, which is different from the Steelworkers proposal, which is

looking for handouts and charity. The PUD's and IOU's proposal, which allocates 100 MW per facility, would only work if there were only two facilities left, not six. I for one would hate to see that come to pass, because it would mean a lot of other workers would be losing their jobs too.

Alcoa has some very new technology just around the corner that could make our plant even better, but it takes capital dollars to make these things happen. If Alcoa is looking at three to five year allocations of power it probably won't spend that kind of money at our plant, but if they had a twenty-year commitment on power we may be able to spend that money here and make our plant even more efficient.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak at the public hearings that you, along with the Northwest Power Planning Council, scheduled throughout the State. I would also like to thank you for coming down from your office last year, when we came down to Portland and answering some of our questions there. Please consider the Alcoa proposal and think of me when you sit down to make your final decisions. Thank you.



Carl Ratcliff

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
High Performance Work Organization Representative  
(Partnership Initiative)  
Alcoa Intalco Works  
Ferndale WA 98248

Home  
3663 Britton Road  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Carl Ratcliff  
PO Box 937  
Ferndale, WA 98248